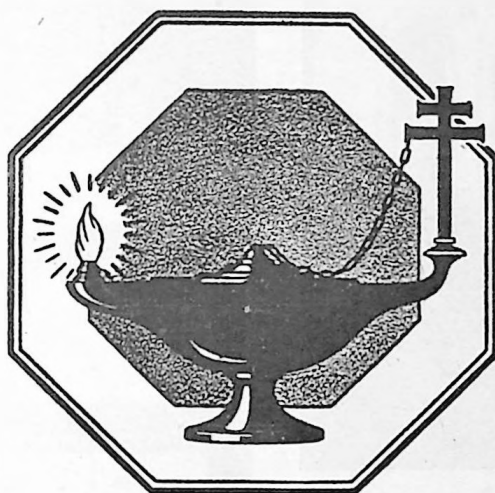


TOC H JOURNAL



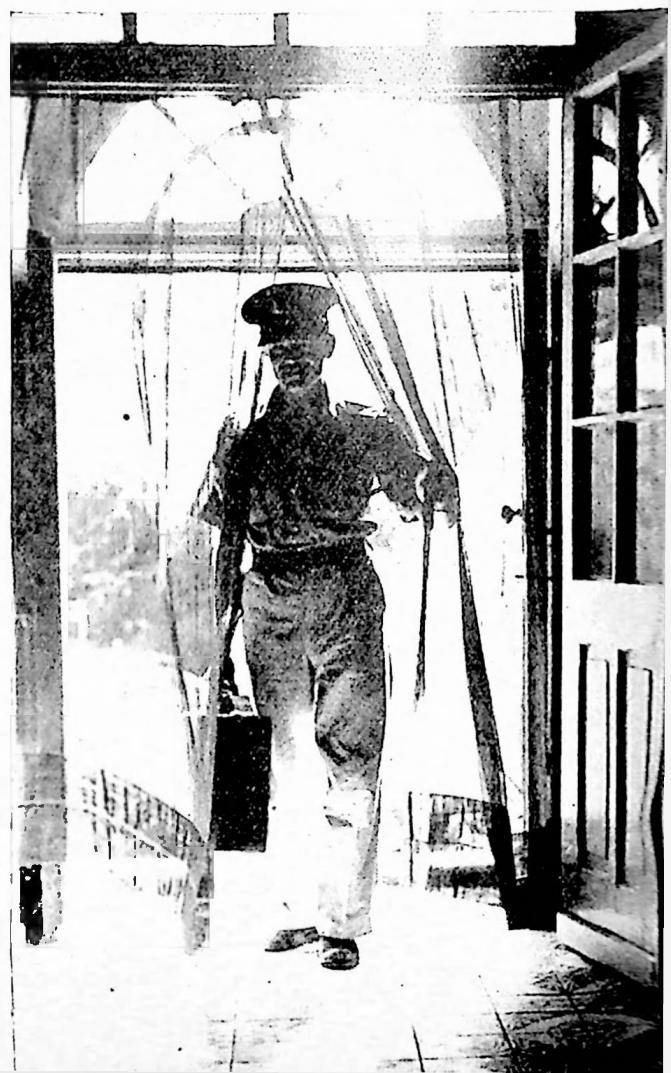
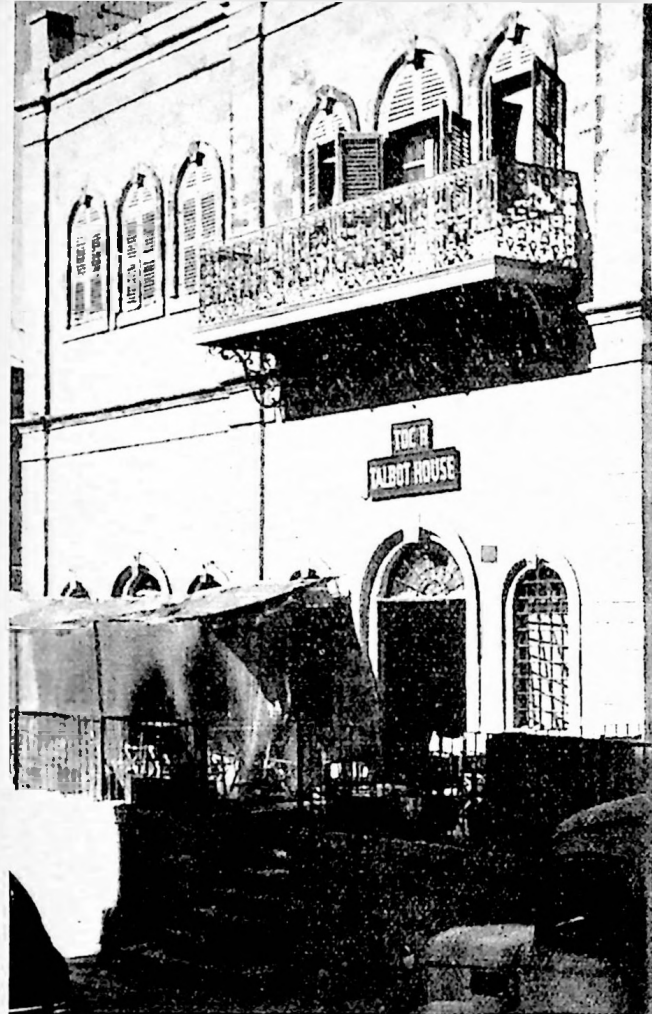
JUNE—MCMXLV

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THE FIDDLER AND THE CROSS

VE-DAY has come and gone. Europe is already wrestling in the turmoil of 'post-war.' This is how a member serving in Germany, Major DAVID STEVENS, foresaw the event and wrote down his thoughts at the time.

IT is Easter Sunday. I am lying in bed in a very fine Schloss; at least it was very fine, but now it is very battered: it had to be battered because there was strong resistance here. The young Prince and Princess of the line are living in the cellars.

I am in bed because I have a small shell splinter in my calf muscle. I shall be out of the chase for three or four days.

I am looking through a window opposite the foot of my bed; the glass has gone, but by some freak of blast a tangled spider's web remains. In the spider's web are some pieces of straw. The straw twists and turns in the wind; it is very animated and then, as the wind drops, it is still. One moment it is a fiddler playing merrily; I can hear the music; Or is it the wind in the shell-torn trees and splintered rafters? The next moment it is a cross, very clear and black against the grey sky. I have been watching it for hours now. Only two pictures are there—the Cross and the Fiddler.

* * * *

Now, while I write, at this very moment, the Fiddler fills the scene. He is playing some fantastic swing tune and dancing wildly as he plays. He suggests wonderful parties soon to be held. Parties to be held when all is over, when the last round has been fired, when every S.P. gun is still and silent, when the last mortar bomb has shrieked to earth and when all Spandaus have ceased their hideous death chatters and are themselves but museum pieces.

Parties out here, parties back in England, parties, parties, parties, that is what the

Fiddler is inviting. Glorious parties with lots of Champagne and everyone getting gloriously drunk, tight night after night, poker schools, dances, drinking, let's get rip-roaring tight! Play Fiddler, play! play for our parties—drunken parties, everyone merry and hearty!

Why get drunk? Get drunk to forget, you fool! to forget the stark-naked bloody frightfulness of war; to forget the ruined homes and farmsteads; to blot from your eyes the unforgettable sights of war, the smashed and mangled bodies; to forget Peter X——, whose burning body was brought in the other day (the phosphorous smoke bombs he carried had been detonated by enemy fire: he only lived a few minutes, thank God!). Get drunk to forget what it's like to be shot at; to forget what it's like to lie in a ditch and listen to the *shriek—thump!—shriek—thump!* of mortar bombs, and feel the sickening shudder of the earth, followed by the call of "stretcher bearers!"; to forget the sickening blood and mud and filth and discomfort of it all; to forget the sight of frightened women and child refugees, trudging along the shell-torn muddy tracks; to forget all the wonderful friends, officers and men, who are dead. That is why we want to get drunk and have wild parties night after night—drinking, laughing alcoholic laughs, forgetting. Play, Fiddler, play!

* * * *

My straw Fiddler has gone, the breeze has died away as the sun sets; the Cross appears, still and black against the sunset sky.

Opposite: TALBOT HOUSE, JERUSALEM.

1. The House by the Jaffa Gate.
2. In the Lounge.
3. A Quiet Corner.
4. Out of the Sun.

The Cross seems to speak—no, that is wrong, it is not the Cross—it is the voices of my friends, all ranks, who are dead. There is Freddie's voice (he was killed three days ago) and Arthur and Pat (they were killed in 1940) and Bill, and L/Cpl. —; oh! dozens of them. No! it's more than that—there are voices and faces I do not recognise; their numbers are increasing; there is a never-ending sea of faces. They are not all talking English; some are inarticulate and cannot express themselves; I cannot understand them. Too many are talking at once. But wait! above the babel of many voices, above the rhythm of many tongues is a definite theme. It is as though in death all are welded into one—articulate and inarticulate. Asiatic, European, American and Dominion, all are trying to say the same. I think it is something like this:—

“Never forget, never forget; be inspired by what you have seen and by what you have endured. Be inspired and steeled to high endeavour, for great tasks lie ahead of you. You inherit the task for which we and our fathers gave their lives in suffering. The task of building a better world, a world which shall never again be torn by war.

The utmost determination and sacrifice will be required from you to see this thing through. The first step is to crucify ‘self’ in yourself; self has been the major cause of suffering since man first walked the earth; self must be crucified in man.

The second step is to dedicate your life to the service of God and the service of all people. Be a follower of Jesus, leading a life of positive action and encourage others to do the same.

The third step is to spare no effort, however great, even unto the suffering we have endured, even into the giving of life, as we have given life, to ensure that our sacrifice and the sacrifice of our fathers shall be worth while.

We do not want a world merely free from the ravages of war. We want a world in which all men work one with another instead of striving against each other. A world in which want and hunger and bad housing and unemployment and loneliness and all the rest of such evils are unknown. In fact we want a world in which men may live and work together in Love and Joy and Peace.

If you will ensure these things, then indeed will our sacrifice have been worthwhile—not only our sacrifice (because ours is not the greatest) but the sacrifice of the maimed and the bereaved as well. You have a grave responsibility, you have a great task, you can achieve great things with God's help. Do not fail us, or them, or Him.”

* * * *

The wind has freshened and my straw Fiddler is back playing his wild tunes and dancing his wild dances, as the sun sets and darkness falls.

DAVID STEVENS.

SALUTE THE CHANNEL ISLANDS!

TWO recent letters give most welcome news of Toc H in Guernsey. One is from Pte. J. Donnelly, one of the liberating party of troops which landed on May 12, himself a member of Jersey Group:

“Toc H had been officially banned, but the members met in secret and did a wonderful job . . . The chaps lost no time in starting again and I was among them (he took ‘Light’) at their first meeting in freedom last evening (May 16). They elected a committee and made complete plans for opening a recreation room for the troops. This Club starts next Wednesday (May 23), and I think it is a great credit to them to get

going so quickly on a grand job in such difficult circumstances.”

The other letter is from John Buckingham (Toc H, 43a, High Street, St. Peter Port, Guernsey), who would certainly welcome letters from members at home. He describes their secret meetings in private houses “the spirit of Toc H did not die”—and goes on:

“In this way the years have gone by, years during which we have realised to the full what England and Freedom really mean. It is impossible to describe German Occupation, one has to experience it—and I do not wish anyone that experience.”

YOUNG WORLD—V. Soviet Youth

We are indebted for this article to Captain VASSILI BOGATYREV of the Soviet Youth Anti-Fascist Committee. His father and his two brothers died in the defence, his mother in the blockade, of Leningrad. He has fought for three years and won three decorations.

VISITORS to the Soviet Union return with varied opinions, but one thing impresses them all, and that is the care and attention given to the children.

In 1918 young people presented a grave problem to the Soviet Government such as has never been faced here for over a century—probably never at all with such intensity or on such a scale. Hundreds of thousands of children were left half-starved and homeless by the war and famine. Many were orphans, and nearly all were without guidance and education. The groups of boys and girls roamed the countryside and cities, living like bandits in cellars and caves, robbing others for their food, rapidly becoming diseased and crippled. These young pupils had to be reformed and trained. But their problem was only an aggravated symptom of the general situation, and special measures to promote education and civic consciousness were an urgent need. The measures adopted and organisations promoted by the Government seem to have provided a solution to this problem in the short span of one generation.

The System of Education

Unlike the Tsarist regime, the Soviet State created conditions for the development of the young generation. It guaranteed the right to education, work and leisure.

The right to education in the U.S.S.R. laid down by Article 121 of the Constitution of the U.S.S.R. is one of the fundamental rights of the Soviet citizen. During the years of Soviet power in all the Soviet Republics the rate of growth of elementary and secondary schools has been especially high.

In a short space of time universal compulsory education was established: before the war everybody from 7-16 was obliged to be at school, and it was planned that the children should stay at school until they were 17 in the near future. Here are some facts illustrating the system of education in the U.S.S.R. compared with Tsarist Russia.

In 1941 there were approximately 35,000,000 pupils in elementary, Seven-Year and Ten-Year schools: in Tsarist Russia at the beginning of the First World War there were approximately eight million pupils.

In 1939 there were 3,733 technical colleges with 945,000 students, that is 26 times as many students as in Tsarist Russia at 1914 (in Tsarist Russia in Middle Vocational Schools and Technical Colleges there were only 36,000 students).

Also in 1939 there were 750 institutes of higher education and universities in the U.S.S.R., attended by about 700,000 students. The network of institutes and universities has spread all over the Republics. In Tsarist Russia there were only 91 institutes of higher education with 112,000 students, which means that the number of students increased almost sevenfold.

Soviet students attending higher educational institutions, universities, and technical colleges received allowances from the State sufficient to maintain them during their studies. And even during the war most of them got these grants while they are learning. Our youth is freed from the anxiety of finding work. Unemployment has been abolished by the Soviet system.

Soviet Youth Organisations

In the Soviet Union there are now many youth organisations—among them, the Octobrists, the Young Pioneers, and the Komsomols, as well as sports organisations and students' Trade Unions.

The 'Little Octobrists,' aged 8-11, are named in honour of the month in 1917 in which the Soviet Government was established. The members carry on children's activities, play games, learn crafts, and to help in the house, led by the teachers, Pioneers and Komsomols. They are organised into groups of 25. A group has five Links, with Pioneers as Link Leaders. The Octobrists elect assistants to the group and link leaders.

The *Pioneers* are from 10-16 years of age. This movement is closely linked with the schools and with the local factories and farms. The organisation is based on the 'Link' of ten members; four or five Links form a Brigade. Links and Brigades hold their own meetings, elect their officers, and plan their activities. Komsomols help with the training and may act as Brigade leaders.

Just as your Girl Guides and Boy Scouts have their codes of honour, so do our young Octobrists and Pioneers (unlike the Scouts and Guides the boys and girls are not separated). The Pioneers have their own daily newspaper, *Pioneer Truth*, and many other magazines and periodicals devoted to the interests of children and young people.

The training of the Pioneers consists of cultural activities, sports and games, scouting in woods and fields and, at present, fire-fighting and gas drill. The older boys and girls during the war could learn such things as rifle-shooting.

Members of the '*Komsomols*' are between 15 and 26 years of age. Membership of the Komsomol organisation is a highly respected and responsible position; application for membership is not lightly made, nor is it easily accepted.

Komsomols are organised in units in their places of work—farm, factory, office, school, university or hospital, whatever it may be. These units are linked together into elected district committees of Komsomols. They have their own newspaper, *Komsomol Truth*, also their own publishing house which issues many books and periodicals for youth. The activities of the Komsomols cover a wider range than those of the Pioneers. They help the school authorities and teachers in matters of school discipline and the organisation of school work. They organise various study circles, discussions and lectures on the most important current events, also sports activities for all young people. They have played a very large part in the restoration of the Donetz Basin, Stalingrad and other places.

Sports in the Soviet Union

Sports Clubs in the Soviet Union have a membership of about ten millions, excluding

school children. These clubs are usually organised by the factory, farm, or other place of work. Whatever job a young person does, whether he is a student, manual or office worker, there is a sports club for him. There are some professional sportsmen in the U.S.S.R.—full-time sportsmen and women are teachers and trainers attached to the sports clubs—but most of the sportsmen in the U.S.S.R. are amateurs.

There is a keen rivalry between the different clubs and time off with full pay is given for members selected to play in matches, even when it means going on tour and travelling to distant parts of the country. At the end of the tour or season, players return to their ordinary work.

The range of sports in the Soviet Union is very wide. As well as football, tennis, swimming, cycling, etc., there is ice-hockey, skiing, horse-riding, motor-boat racing, flying, shooting, parachute jumping. But there is no cricket! There are many flying, glider and parachute clubs. These sports which provided a tremendous thrill in peace-time for young people, naturally provided very useful training and experience for the demands of war.

'Pioneer Palaces' and 'Parks of Culture'

By 1937 there were 864 Pioneer Palaces or Houses, as well as 174 Children's Theatres or Cinemas, and 760 centres for children's technical and art education. There were also 170 children's parks and gardens. Visits to these palaces, parks, and theatres, and activities within them are a regular part of the programme of the Pioneer groups. A good idea of a Pioneer Palace can be gained from the following extracts from *Through Soviet Russia* by Major Hooper, written in 1937. The first Palace he visited was in Kharkov:

"This Palace of Pioneers was the first one of its kind in the Soviet Union. Other towns have since taken up the idea. A fine great building with masses of rooms of all sorts. Games, models to play with, a library, concert rooms and a cinema. The models were very fascinating. Two children were working a telephone system from one room to another. There was one excellent model of the inside of a petrol engine; when you switched it on, the whole process of the gas going through the carburettor into the cylinder

chamber and exploding, the rest of the machinery, and how it worked was shown."

The second one he visited was in Leningrad:

"In the afternoon I went to the new Pioneers Palace, the latest and best in the Soviet Union. The Palace was divided into four sections: Recreation, Art, Technique, and Science. I saw only the Recreation and that was exhausting enough. About 8,000 children use it daily, free. They obtain an entrance ticket from their school. The ages are 8-16.

The whole Palace had been redecorated, the Leningrad Soviet giving about 5,000,000 roubles towards it, and the various factories, clubs and organisations the rest. The wall and furniture decorations were superb. In some rooms the walls were hand-painted by the famous Palekh workers, and they illustrated scenes from the tales of Pushkin and Gorki. There were special rooms for chess, and I noticed a very pretty cover from the English *Chess Magazine* on the wall. The children play very quickly and well. There are music rooms and dance rooms, a cinema with three shows a night, holding 300 each show; a winter garden, lecture rooms, a wireless room. Some of the paintings are fine, and the original painting of Lenin by the best artist in the Soviet Union has been given them. Also one of Gorki. Rooms for games like small billiards, rooms with nothing but interesting puzzles and problems. One room was built like the saloon of a ship with appropriate models. Lecturers came, seafaring men from all parts to talk to them. A concert room where a group was rehearsing. A delightful cafe and sweet shop. Some of the rooms had silk wallpaper.

And overflowing everywhere were the owners, children full of bustle and energy, but no screaming and ragging. They sauntered, ran, played and talked—in fact the whole place buzzed, but no one keeping order. There were grown-ups about, but only to refer to and ask, not to impose their will on them. . . ."

There is also provision made for the children in the Parks of Culture and Rest. The Children's City in the Moscow Park is particularly famous, with its demonstration halls—Hall of the Young Technician, Interesting Pastimes, Music, etc., as well as facilities for outdoor games and activities. The children meet Heroes of the Soviet Union in their Parks and Palaces, such as Ivan Papanin, famous North Pole explorer. They are helped in their favourite sports by leading athletes, like the Zamensky Brothers, famous pilots, and Red Army officers, and they play against famous chess champions—in fact, they have the opportunity of talking to, and learning from, the experts in every sphere.

Older school children and those who have left school have circles where they can follow

their own particular interests, either literary, artistic, theatrical, technical, etc. These are encouraged and often organised by Pioneers and Komsomols. In the circles they benefit from the visits of experts, famous writers, actors, producers, and so on, who encourage members to write their own plays, publish magazines, design their own sets for amateur dramatics, and compose music. The experts give the young people the benefit of their knowledge, and are constantly on the look-out for youthful talent which deserves special training.

Theatre, Music and Literature

The Children's Theatre is one of the interesting innovations which the Soviet Union has given to the theatrical world. Good plays are regarded as a necessary part of the education for each Soviet man, woman, and child, and it is realised that performances at ordinary theatres are often unsuitable for children. Therefore children are provided with their own special theatres. Here plays are produced which have been written specially for young audiences, and great care is taken in their selection and production. Many of the plays are based on stories known to children the world over; one of the favourites is Hans Anderson's *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Others are scenes from the history of Russia, or simply adventure stories.

Similarly, there are special children's cinemas. Nobody under 14 is admitted to ordinary cinemas, but on the other hand, no adult is admitted to a children's cinema unless accompanied by a child! Special films are made for children, and among the most famous are *Treasure Island*, *Lone White Sail*, *Tom Sawyer*, and *The New Gulliver*.

Music and dancing are also popular. Choirs and orchestras exist in nearly every farm, factory or college. Famous orchestras, and ballet and opera companies tour the country, bringing the classics to everyone. There are many musical clubs for young people.

General interest in literature is also very high. In 1937 more books were published in the U.S.S.R. than in any other country in the world. This figure should be contrasted

with 1918, when about 80 per cent. of the population was illiterate. Millions of books by great Russian writers—Tolstoy, Chekhov, Gorki, Pushkin, and Turgenev—are sold as soon as they are produced. Translations of classical works from other countries are equally in demand, and millions of sets of Shakespeare, Dickens, Voltaire, Balzac, Flaubert, Dante, Goethe, etc., have been printed at very low prices. Young people in the Soviet Union also like such writers as Galsworthy, J. B. Priestley, and Kipling.

The distribution of books has been made easier by innumerable libraries attached to Trade Unions, factories, farms, schools, clubs, etc. For children there are special children's libraries. Many favourites of British boys and girls are included—*Tom Sawyer* and *Robinson Crusoe* and others. Again there are clubs and circles to encourage literary interests, to which all young people can belong.

Since the war all the sections of Soviet Youth have been co-ordinated in the Soviet Youth Anti-Fascist Committee, which has its headquarters in Moscow. This committee consists of young scientists like the chairman, Eugene Fyodorov, the North Pole explorer; E. Novikova, a young nurse from the Front; Talalikhin, a famous airman (until his death in action); Zoya Fyodorova, a film

star; Olga Lepeshinskaya, a ballerina, and other sportsmen, young writers, etc. It has also a student sub-committee.

In the tremendous struggle waged against the enemy, young people played a notable part. Following the victorious Red Army are thousands of young workers who have come forward to help rebuild the ruined areas.

For more than 20 years the young people of the Soviet Union have seen a new life opening up before them. They had almost unbelievable opportunities for education, enjoyment and creative work. When the German army attacked the Soviet Union in 1941 all this was seriously threatened. In order to meet this danger, Soviet Youth and the whole of the Soviet people rose up united to drive the enemy from their soil. It is not by chance that the young generation of the Soviet land has become a mighty force in the defence of its State. Soviet Youth is interested to see that the Victory won by the United Nations, is followed by a stable peace and general security from which the possibility of new aggression will be excluded. This can be reached only through youth, friendship and co-operation, especially between the youth of our two countries,

VASSILI BOGATYREV.

INTO GERMANY



THE TOC H NOTE, here reproduced, life-size, is 'coined' for use in a Services Club in

Süchteln, near Crefeld: value, at the present rate of exchange, 1d. This is what one soldier, writing on April 14, thinks of this Club:

"All the Germans have to be indoors by 6 p.m. so we have the town or village to ourselves in the evenings. There is a Toc H canteen here manned (or should one say womaned?) by three women—British, of course. I went there the night before last and had a very nice cup of tea before going to a picture house that the Army has commandeered.

I was told that the Toc H had been opened a week. That's a pretty good show, don't you think? Three women who need not have left England, voluntarily going into Germany almost on the heels of our advance spearheads and opening up Canteens for the lads—I thought that that was Service at its highest and best."

We have opened another Club at Nienburg, on the Weser.

MONEY-RAISING FOR TOC H

The Central Council expressed the desire that the speech made by Padre HERBERT LEGGATE at its meeting on April 14 (see page 91) should be made available to the membership. This is a reconstruction of it from notes taken at the time.

I WANT to say a few words about the Toc H attitude towards money in the Post-War World. It has been generally realised that Services Clubs are an activity of Toc H. Toc H is not, however, merely a society that runs Services Clubs. There is a danger at the present time that some people may think it is. We have felt that the Movement has been right in appealing for funds from the public for the running of Services Clubs. A section of the membership has been doubtful about some of the methods of money-raising which have been used. We are not disposed to apologise for the methods that have been used. We do, however, recognise that the methods of raising money for Toc H itself must be subject to somewhat different standards. The principle that should always be kept in mind is that the purpose for which we are seeking money should determine the method of raising it.

Before the war the family of Toc H had begun to realise that money has a spiritual significance. As the result of a prolonged period of education the membership had developed a sense of responsibility concerning the money in their care. This was true whether the money at their disposal could be counted in pounds, hundreds of pounds or thousands of pounds. I believe that this sense of responsibility can still be taken for granted, and I am glad, since we are going to need money tremendously in the future.

What is our Purpose?

The Central Executive has been considering this matter and recommends the general policy of concentrating for the next three years on a personal approach to the membership and to prospective Toc H Builders, firms and trusts as our primary means of raising money for Toc H Incorporated. This must not be interpreted as meaning that we are going to enter into a period during which we shall examine each money-raising

effort in order to find out whether it is respectable enough to be used in Toc H. There will be no committee set up which will pronounce judgment upon money-raising by referring to lists to see whether or not the method is permissible. Such an attitude quickly leads to a smug and Pharisaic approach to the whole subject. We have to be clear in our minds about the purpose for which God called Toc H into being. The whole Movement from the Central Executive down to the smallest unit has to examine any suggested method of raising money in the light of that purpose. Different decisions will be arrived at in different parts of the country. Some areas may use methods at which others would look askance. The only judgment however that we have any right to pronounce is that all Areas are not equally clear about the purpose of Toc H and the way in which money fits into it.

It is understandable that the membership should be eager to become self-supporting and any efforts directed towards that goal are to be encouraged. My own opinion is that Toc H will never be self-supporting. I would go so far as to say that I *hope* it never will be. God will always call the family to tasks that are beyond its power in money, in capacity and manpower. We must always, therefore, be ready to turn outwards towards people who are not of the family in order to seek manpower and money-power that will make it possible for us to accomplish the work to which we believe God is calling us. We must always, however, seek to convert men and women to the purpose of Toc H before we ask them to "Stand and deliver."

Seeking the Way

We are moving forward into a very difficult period. The situation in the post-War world will, I feel, be very different from what it was after the last war. One difference is to be found in the outlook both of

men who return from war service and men who have remained at home and served in other ways. Last time men faced the peace with great expectations and were later bitterly disillusioned. This time I think it is true to say that the majority of men have few illusions. It is generally accepted that men are not expecting great things from organised religion. It is not as generally recognised that they expect very little from political parties. Vast numbers of people realise that the world has lost its way. Many would be glad if they could find solid ground beneath their feet. Spiritual leadership would find, I am convinced, a ready response from very many people. In this direction Toc H has its part to play since we ought to be able to inspire men with a sense of spiritual purpose in their ordinary activities.

A Members' Thanksgiving Fund

We ought not to be handicapped in the days that are before us by lack of money. Neither ought our first appeal to the men who will return with an interest in Toc H to be an appeal for money. This situation faces the Movement with a real challenge. Almost £10,000 of the present salary bill of Toc H is chargeable to the War Services Fund. This £10,000 will fall upon Toc H Incorporated in the years that succeed the war. Some of us believe that the work of Toc H cannot be carried on effectively with the small staff which we have now. Many men who have known Toc H will be returning to towns and villages in which there is no Toc H unit. A bigger staff will be required in order to make necessary extension possible. The only thing that ought to hold up the creation of a staff sufficient for our purposes is our inability to recruit men of the right calibre. The importance of the work calls for a staff of the highest quality.

Since the last Central Council some Regions have been doing some hard thinking about these matters. They have believed that the existing membership of this country ought as an act of thanksgiving to create a fund which would make it possible for the Movement to face the first two or three years after the war without incurring an overdraft

at the bank. If all the Regions were to do what two Regions have already done, the possible £10,000 deficit of the first year could be avoided.

The Central Executive recognises with gratitude the efforts that have already been made. It is believed that the time has now come when the whole membership should be called upon to support the Members' Thanksgiving Fund. We hope and believe that every Region will be eager to give its support to this effort. If our willingness to give is the measure of our faith in the Movement, how deep is our faith? Every member ought to answer this question for himself. I hope that every Councillor will face the question honestly and that as a result every Region will call its own membership to express its faith in the spiritual purpose of Toc H by making known to its own Area Treasurer or to Toc H Headquarters what amount of money it is willing to give towards the Members' Thanksgiving Fund.

The Victors' Task

During the next few months this country will be facing the biggest test that she has ever faced. We shall be living in a chaotic world. Within this chaotic world we have the difficult task of being victors but remaining humble gentlemen and gentlewomen. We shall not agree as to what kind of a peace ought to be imposed upon the vanquished. We ought, however, to be agreed upon the fact that whatever we do to our enemies we shall be doing to a part of the family of God. Toc H is a Christian show—one among others—and we believe that "behind the ebb and flow of things temporal" there is a spiritual purpose working itself out. We believe further that Toc H is one of God's instruments for working out this purpose. If we believe this and it doesn't touch our pockets we are using cant phrases.

We must be ready to ask men of goodwill outside the Movement to support us with their money because they believe in the job we are seeking to do, but in order to put ourselves in good standing we should first assess ourselves and express our gratitude to God by giving until it hurts. If we do this,

then there will be no risk that Toc H will be known merely as a Services Clubs concern. The Central Executive shares with you the desire that Toc H should convert men and women to the spiritual purpose of the family

before appealing to them for funds to carry out that purpose. Let us therefore to our tasks with gratitude to God that they are so far beyond our means and our abilities.

HERBERT LEGGATE.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL

THE Central Council, the governing body of Toc H, held its Annual Meeting on Saturday afternoon, April 14, at the Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, Westminster. As usual, the meeting was preceded by a short service at 2 p.m., held in the Chapel and conducted by KENNETH BLOXHAM (Manchester Area Padre).

The meeting began at 2.30 in the Assembly Hall, with DONALD CAMPBELL (Chairman of the Central Executive) in the chair. There was an excellent attendance of 82 councillors, with a number of visitors, Hon. Area Correspondents and members of the staff in addition. As usual non-councillors were given permission to speak but not, of course, to vote.

Visitors and Messages.

The Chairman began by welcoming various visitors—the representatives of Toc H (WOMEN'S SECTION) Central Executive; two War Services, Commissioners on leave, ALAN COWLING (India and S.E.A.C.) and ARTHUR EDGAR (B.L.A.), and one ex-Commissioner, JOHN MALLET (C.M.F.); REX CALKIN, HUGH PILCHER and Padre AUSTEN WILLIAMS, who had returned last September after four and a half years' internment in Germany and France, and Col. BRIAN BONHAM-CARTER, repatriated only a few days before the meeting; also HORACE CLIVE (Central Finance Committee), Padre CHARLES PATON, R.N., HUBERT SECRETAN (former Hon. Administrator) and HARRY WILLINK (former Chairman of the Central Executive). He also paid a tribute to DALLAS RALPH, (H.Q.), who had carried on as Acting General Secretary throughout Rex Calkin's enforced absence.

Among apologies for absence was a message from FRANK GILLARD, B.B.C. war correspondent on the Western Front, a Councillor. Greetings were received in a cable,

signed by GORDON TURVEY (Commissioner, Middle East), from 24 Service Circles attending a Toc H Rally in the Middle East.

Appointments.

The Council confirmed the appointment made by the Central Executive for a further year of W. J. LAKE LAKE as Hon. Administrator, and of HERBERT LEGGATE as Administrative Padre. On TUBBY's proposal, seconded by HERBERT LEGGATE, the appointment of the Assistant Administrative Padre, GILBERT WILLIAMS, to be Administrative Padre, C. of E., was also recommended. (This appointment has since been made by the Central Executive).

Annual Report and Accounts.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by the HON. ADMINISTRATOR, the Annual Report (circulated to Councillors beforehand) was received. The Accounts, with some explanation by JACK HARRISON (Chief Accountant), were also received and considered. The Council put on record its appreciation of the work carried out under trying wartime conditions by all sections of the staff at Headquarters in London.

HERBERT LEGGATE then spoke on the policy of the Central Executive in regard to methods of money-raising and on the members' post-war Thanksgiving Fund. (This speech is reproduced above, on page 89).

The Council's Term of Office.

After an adjournment for tea (during which voting papers for the election of a new Central Executive were collected), the Chairman drew attention to the fact that the Lord President of the Council, under powers conferred on him, had directed that, notwithstanding the Charter and Bye-laws of Toc H, it should not be necessary for an election of members of the Central Council to be

held in 1945, that it should be lawful for the present members to continue in office for a further year, and that any vacancies should be filled by appointment by the Central Executive.

Finances of Toc H and the Women's Section.

There was then presented to the Council a series of recommendations which had been made by the Finance Committees of Toc H and Toc H (Women's Section), approved by the Central Executive of both and unanimously adopted by the Central Council of the Women's Section. The Toc H Council now decided to adopt them, and the following arrangements for the unification of such appeals for funds as are made by both bodies will take effect from November 1, 1945:

1. That the self-assessment principle is the normal basis of Branch and Group finance and should be encouraged.

2. That in future, joint appeals to the Public should be made to cover the activities of both Toc H and Toc H (Women's Section) and that the income therefrom should be allocated according to:

- (a) the needs of Toc H and Toc H (Women's Section),

- (b) funds immediately available or envisaged (e.g. the normal and assessable annual income), and

- (c) the income received from the joint appeal.

3. That the Associates Scheme of the Women's Section be dropped and that a paragraph be inserted in the next print of the Builders' leaflets concerning the Women's Section and giving subscribers the opportunity to earmark their subscriptions for Toc H Incorporated or Toc H (Women's Section).

4. That in arriving at a reasonable allocation of income from joint appeals, the Finance Committees should consider early in each financial year a budget of proposed expenditure (based on the plans made by the Central Executive) for the coming year and of income based on the accounts of the preceding year.

5. That we do not consider it possible or desirable to lay down any method by which income arising from such joint appeals shall be divided in fixed proportions, as it is not possible to foresee what will be the needs of, or the normal annual income available to, either Toc H or Toc H (Women's Section), nor is it desirable to lay down a fixed basis which will undoubtedly need constant revision owing to changing conditions.

6. That no special appeal to the Public should be made by Toc H (Women's Section) for specific activities, such as Overseas Staff, a Training Centre, etc., but that, if it is necessary to go beyond the membership for such funds, such items should be included in any appeal made jointly to the Public.

7. That in order to carry out this closer co-operation, members of both Toc H and Toc H (Women's Section) should attend Regional/Area Revenue Committees (if or when formed), and Regional/Area Finance Committees or, where such Committees do not exist, Regional/Area Executive Committees.

Harry Willink Speaks.

An opportunity was then given to "HARRY" (or, as he is more formally known elsewhere, the Rt. Hon. Henry Urmston Willink, Minister of Health) to speak to the Council, which welcomed him with delight. He recalled his wardenship of Mark III in the early days of Toc H after the last war, not only with evident pleasure but as an experience which had taught him much of value in his subsequent career. He found himself still meeting and working with other old hostellers of Mark III, now officials in his own and other Government departments. He avowed once again his faith in Toc H and the great opportunities for its ideals and its work in the tasks which would face the post-war world.

A Resolution of Sympathy.

It was decided to send to the British War Relief Society of America, that splendid ally of Toc H in its war work, a resolution of sympathy with the people of the United States, whose generous spirit the Society has represented in this country, on the death of their President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Election of the Central Executive.

In February the Councillors had been asked to propose candidates for election to the Central Executive and, with the agenda of the meeting, the names and particulars of all candidates had been circulated to them. Sixteen men in all were to be elected, and there were eleven candidates on the "London List," and nine on "The Rest of Great Britain and Ireland List." There being no further nominations at the meeting, on a count of the voting papers the Central Executive for 1945-46 was declared to be as follows:

London List: CHARLES BROWNJOHN, R.N.; Major DONALD S. CAMPBELL; VINCENT F. CARTER; KEITH FRASER; STEPHEN JACK; JOHN MALLET; G. J. MORLEY JACOB; HUBERT A. SECRETAN.

Rest of G.B. and Ireland List: RUPERT E. BAILEY (West Midlands Area); FRANK BARTER

(Southern Area); STANLEY V. BERWICK (Kent, Surrey and Sussex Area); MELVILLE DINWIDDIE (Scottish Region); DENIS G. GILMAN (Notts and Derby Area); A. GEORGE HALSON (Wessex Division); W. E. PALMER (South Western Area); E. V. THOMAS (South Wales Area).

Ex-Officio: Rev. P. B. CLAYTON (Founder Padre); WILLIAM A. HURST (Hon. Treasurer); W. J. LAKE LAKE (Hon. Administrator); Rev. HERBERT LEGGATE (Administrative Padre).

(Group Captain G. R. OLIVER, R.A.F., and the Rev. DAVID A. V. WORTH have since been co-opted).

Work of the Central Executive.

A report on its past year's work, submitted by the outgoing Central Executive, was considered and approved. The following extract is taken from the preamble:

"Since November 1 the Central Executive has been meeting twice monthly in order to give time to the problems that will face Toc H in the post-war world. There has been no attempt to formulate detailed plans for the guidance of the movement. There has been rather an attempt to relate the post-war work to the main purpose of Toc H. Certain basic principles must always be kept in mind in any consideration of the future. Toc H may do social service, but it is not a social service organisation. Its members may engage in propaganda, but it is not a propagandist society. It is a Christian society which has its own part to play in the fulfilment of the purpose of God. The Christian view of the world is that God has made of one family all the peoples of the earth. We are kinsfolk, even when we act as though we had no relationship with each other. Believing in this essential kinship of men, Toc H brings men and women of different types together to think and work not for themselves but for others. In the process men find each other and some also find God. The Central Executive recognises that the present and future work of Toc H must at all times be related to this purpose."

The report made special reference to the future of Marks, the purchase of property, post-war staff and policy in regard to War Services.

Discussion.

It is not possible in the limits of the space available here to attempt a report of the Council's discussion, to which many present contributed. It ranged over a good many subjects—Service pass-holders and the prospects of their membership when they return to civilian life; the need for publicising the meeting place and time of Toc H in all places where it exists; the value or otherwise of the distinction between Branches and

Groups. (It was noted that the Central Council of the Women's Section had lately decided to abolish the distinction and have Branches only); the development of the Toc H Builders' scheme into a real form of membership; the further extension of friendship by Toc H to coloured peoples. These were some of the subjects. Outstanding contributions were made by 'Bob' COLLIS, from Ireland a well-known early hosteller of Mark III, who stressed, from his own experience, the essential Christian secret of the building of Toc H from the first days, and from HUBERT SECRETAN, who urged Toc H to define its proper sphere of action as "a specialised weapon of the Christian Church," and not to be tempted to dissipate its energies in directions already the field of other organisations.

The meeting ended punctually with prayers led by HERBERT LEGGATE.

Aftermath

After a meal, secured in various places, many Councillors returned to enjoy a family gathering in the same Hall. In company with 300 London members they formed an exceedingly crowded, perspiring and happy audience. Led by the Chairman of the London Regional Executive, BILL MAYNARD, warmed by some community singing, and charmed by the first public appearance of the new Toc H Male Voice Choir (see p. 94), they heard ALAN COWLING report graphically on the work of Toc H in India and Burma, and ARTHUR EDGAR give some hint as to the scope of the work in Belgium and Germany, then they settled down while TUBBY played brilliantly on all the notes in turn, ending with a hilarious and gallant epic of his own father.

On Sunday morning some members of the Council received their Communion in All Hallows Porch Room, converted into a war-time Church, and at noon Tubby preached a Council Sermon to a congregation seated in bright sunshine within the roofless walls of All Hallows itself. During the afternoon the London Regional Executive were "at home" in the London Centre, Westminster, to Councillors and others.

OUT OF BONDAGE

LAST month we published a letter, written on Christmas Day but not received until just over three months later—when the inmates of the camp were on the verge of deliverance at the hands of the Americans—from Lt. Col. Cecil Lister, then Chairman of the 'Village Branch' in Oflag IX A/H. In mid-April we received, from an address in Hampshire, a letter from his successor in office, Major Kenneth Godson. He writes:

"I was going to write you a line at the end of this month, when I finished my Quarter as Chairman of the Village Branch, Oflag IX A/H, Lower Camp, Spangenberg, but expected to do so from Germany! How great it is to be able to do so from England! I arrived on 10th April, having been released on 4th April by the Americans. We disarmed our own guards and German officers, making them P's of W. and mounting guard over them ourselves until the Americans could collect enough troops to do so.

The Germans had been marching us long distances since March 29th to the East in order to avoid us being released. We were in no good condition for doing so, as we had no (Red Cross) parcels for some months and were only on half a parcel for ten days and the German ration, always poor, was still further reduced.

The whole story of our march, release and experiences afterwards is most interesting but too long to tell here. We owed a very great deal to Col. Holland (*Chairman, Toc H East Dorset District*), whom you know, of course, our S.B.O. (*Senior British Officer*). He had a good policy of saving, which ensured us having food for such an emergency, and he continually forced on the Germans the fact that if they continued to march us long distances every night, the condition of the officers and their state of health after five years of captivity would cause a complete break down, and that the treatment was inhumane. He persuaded them to rest us, with the result that the Americans caught us up.

We had a short Branch meeting on March 27th, the day we were warned to be ready to move at short notice. After I had taken 'Light' for the

last time as a P.O.W., our Padre, Cecil Lake, said special prayers and we ended with the Toc H Prayer.

I am afraid that all the things which we packed up to bring home, such as the Rushlight, a beautifully drawn suggestion for our Banner after we had received the great but undeserved honour of being made a Branch (*See last month's JOURNAL*), notes of our meetings, etc., have all been destroyed. For the foreign workers pillaged our camp soon after we had left it and ripped everything open: nothing was left except a few books. One cannot altogether blame them, as the Germans gave them nothing in the way of clothes, etc.

During the last Quarter we had some particularly interesting talks from recent captures at Arnheim and a series of talks from officers of each Dominion—though these were not completed when we had to leave. As a result we had record attendances, and, although we had no initiations, I hope the principles and aims of Toc H will remain in the minds of those present, who may join later.

As regards Toc H jobs, these were difficult as you know. We did what we could in carrying hot water for baths for those in Hospital, assisting the orderlies in preparing the room for church services, lectures, etc., booking seats for hospital patients at cinemas—not much, I am afraid, but the idea of service for others was there."

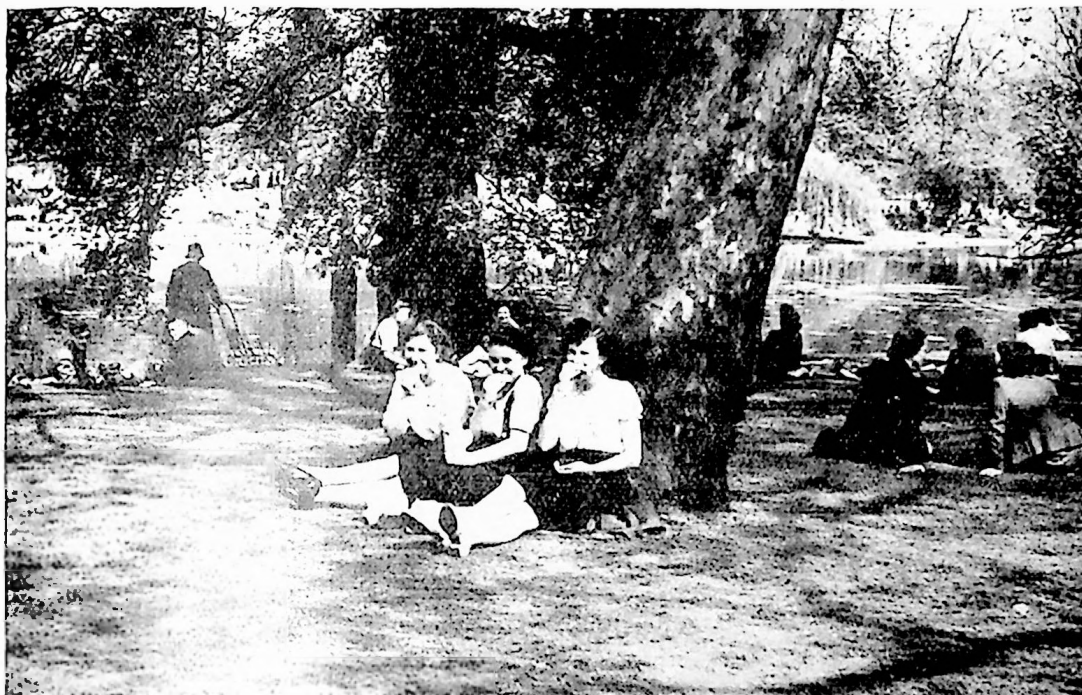
Home Again!

Every day now, at Headquarters, at the London Centre and in Units all over the country our returned prisoners of war are getting in touch with Toc H at home, many of them for the first time. They have tales to tell of their years of imprisonment, of 500-mile marches at the end, with starvation rations, of deliverance by the Allied armies, of their flight home and the great welcome they received. Many had to abandon the precious records of their Toc H prison Branches, but some of their Minute Books and home-made Rushlights are reaching H.Q. and we hope to refer to them later.

WANTED—SINGERS!

MEMBERS present at the last big Birthday Festival at the Albert Hall in London before the war will remember how a small but well-trained Toc H Male-voice Choir coped triumphantly with that huge auditorium. In the first year of the war this choir sang to the B.E.F. in France at a service broadcast from St. Stephen's Club. But war duties thinned its membership until it came to an end.

Now male-voice singing in Toc H London has been revived, and a small choir sprang a delightful surprise on the audience after the Council meeting (see p. 93). Most of its present singers are Service men, soon likely to leave London, and there is urgent need for resident London members to come forward and take their places. Apply *now* to David Welsh, Warden of Mark II, 123, St. George's Square, S.W.1.



After five years of war-time pictures in this JOURNAL, why not one scene of peace? VE-Day is over and 'Summer is icumen in'—with Peace—to St. James's Park, Westminster. No one will blame the photographer for catching two members of H.Q. staff and one from the London Centre lunching there.

THE ELDER BRETHREN

BECK.—In January, RICHARD BECK, aged 45, a member of Lincoln Branch. Elected 14.2.'35.

BOTHAM.—In Iraq on May 28, 1944, PHILIP BOTHAM, Cpl., Secretary of Habbaniya Services Group. Elected 5.5.'44.

CARTER.—Missing, now presumed killed, since June 7, 1944, MAURICE H. CARTER, R.A.F., a member of Clacton Branch. Elected 8.6.'32.

ENGLAND.—On May 2, EDWIN THIRWALL ENGLAND, Headmaster of King Edward's School, Birmingham, 1929-41, formerly Chairman of West Midlands Area Executive. Elected 10.11.'22.

HUNT.—In February, FREDERICK ADAMS HUNT, aged 51, a member of Chatham Branch. Elected 21.8.'33.

KEYSELL.—On April 23, at Sarratt, Herts., THOMAS ELSMERE KEYSELL, aged 75, formerly an Hon. Overseas Commissioner of Toc H. Elected 1.9.'21.

MORDECAI.—Killed in action in Burma, P. MORDECAI, a member of The Buffs Circle. Elected 24.4.'44.

MORRISON.—Killed in action, JOSEPH M. MORRISON, Devon Regt., a member of the family of 'Blighty.' Elected 19.5.'43.

ORME.—In April, Dr. GILBERT ORME, a member of Mayfair Group. Elected 13.11.'43.

PADWICK.—In February, HUBERT PADWICK, a member from the Cavendish Association. Elected 1923.

REYNOLDS.—On April 1, suddenly, WILLIAM REYNOLDS, for 30 years Headmaster of Calstock Council School, Pilot of 'Calstock Group. Elected 8.9.'40.

THORP.—On April 30, EDWARD WILLIAM THORP, aged 67, formerly Secretary of Broadstairs and St. Peter's Branch. Elected 10.12.'30.

WHIFFEN.—Killed in action in Burma on January 28, G. WHIFFEN, a member of The Buffs Circle. Elected 24.4.'44.

COALVILLE COMES OF AGE

On April 24 Coalville Branch, founded in 1924, celebrated its Coming-of-Age. It is a Branch which provides an example of the way in which our movement can be carried into industrial life with excellent results. The Chairman, fondly known to everyone as "Skipper" Emmerson, has been at work in the Branch since its foundation, and has built up a team of men which represents a true cross-section of the coal-mining industry. It is a notable experience to be present at a Coalville Guest-night, with the coal company's general manager in the chair, the miners' agent for the district taking 'Light,' and men representing all sides of work in the pits, even the 'Bevin Boys,' standing in fellowship together to remember the Elder Brethren.

The Branch has done many jobs for the community and also has a notable record for forming units in the neighbouring colliery villages. These were all represented at the Coming-of-Age. Tubby, who spoke at the Guest-night, landed at a local aerodrome that afternoon from the Orkneys.

The Bishop of Leicester (the Rt. Rev. GUY VERNON SMITH) preached at the service. He said:

"We desire Toc H to have a *permanent* place within the larger life of the Church of God—" *per maneo*," to remain through all the changes and chances of time, to abide. This will depend upon the Christian life within it. Toc H is primarily a Christian Movement. It is not just another friendly fellowship, or a Society with a good social programme. The impulse which brought it to birth and then sent it out into this world as a Christian impulse. The Spirit of God moved on the dark waste land of Flanders and thus "so wonderfully made Toc H." By the same Spirit its branches have been sustained and guided in many lands. By the same Spirit alone can it live its true life. It will only be permanent if it abides in Christ.

At this Coming-of-Age when the Coalville Branch, fully grown, accepts full and greater responsibility, take two pictures, parables—apply them in your own minds to Toc H. Last Thursday our new Archbishop, who learned his first lessons as a Leicestershire child in the Church School at Higham-on-the-Hill was enthroned in the Chair of St. Augustine—97th in the long succession. In that great ceremony to me most moving and symbolic was the fact that the Book of the Canterbury Gospels—believed to have be-

longed to St. Augustine—was escorted by the King's Scholars, who walked with grave and reverent dignity up the great Cathedral. The young men, the new generation, must stand round the Gospel and guard our most holy Faith. Toc H must learn how to bring in the young men to hold both young and old together, and to show each generation that its noblest task is to defend the Faith. This it can do if, and only if, it abides in Christ.

The second picture is of an old English garden, most beautiful on a glorious April evening. There was the old square plot of ground surrounded by high red walls, softened and mellowed by time. Behind was the tower of the village Church; within the garden fruit trees of every kind—a wonderful heritage. But the tenant said, "The last man grew old. He did not prune the trees or plant fresh ones. I fancy he thought they would last out his time."

To live on the past, on our heritage, is fatal. We have a great Christian heritage in England. In our slack moments when we are careless, lazy and at our worst we idly think it will "last out our time," whether or not we discharge our duties. Toc H will most honour the Elder Brethren as it prunes each branch, as it takes pains to plant again.

I have many memories of Toc H—in Ceylon, in London and now all over Leicestershire. It is always good and encouraging to hear that there is a Branch in a town or neighbourhood. I know what to expect. Not merely a company of men where a friendly welcome will be given on a guest-night: or when a variety of 'jobs' will be faithfully undertaken round about. Toc H lives and stands by the Spirit who holds together the life of the Branch. The secret of a strong Branch will be found in the Upper Room, in Light, in home-going prayers and at the Altar.

We are drawing towards Whitsuntide. Our Lord left in the world (this was His Legacy) a body of men and women in whom His Spirit dwelt. Of course, they did innumerable things—the record is of their *Acts*. The book is not called "The Thoughts of the Apostles"—as if Christianity was only an academic abstract philosophy of life, or "The Words," as if the only sermon was that preached in the pulpit. It is the story of those who were filled with the Holy Spirit of God, and of what, for that reason and by that Life, they *did*. Toc H then will abide in any place where it remembers this. For apart from Christ, however busy a Branch may be, it can in the long run do nothing.

As a Bishop it would be hard for me to say how much I owe personally to Toc H. It has inspired, encouraged, refreshed me again and again throughout many years of happy membership. Its presence has strengthened the Christian life and the Christian spirit in place after place where its Branches are found. But if it should cease to abide in Christ it would begin to wither. To all its younger men and women I would hope that great thought from Canterbury—they must stand together round the Gospel of God."